

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 10, and 17, and add new claim 53 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A backlight comprising:

a discharge tube;

a reflector for reflecting light radiated from said discharge tube; and

a heat conduction member attached to said reflector in contact with a part of said discharge tube so that a part of said discharge tube is locally cooled by said heat conduction member,

wherein said heat conduction member is adhered to at least one of said discharge tube and said reflector, ~~or~~ is in a bonding state equal to or stronger than a hydrogen bond.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A backlight according to claim 1, wherein said heat conduction member comprises a non metal.

4. (Original) A backlight according to claim 1, wherein said heat conduction member comprises at least one of a heat conductive resin, a heat conductive rubber and an adhesive.

5. (Original) A backlight according to claim 1, wherein a heat radiation member is provided in contact with at least one of said heat conduction member and said reflector.

6. (Original) A backlight according to claim 1, wherein a container containing therein a material exhibiting a cooling function by phase transition is provided in contact with said heat conduction member.

7. (Original) A backlight according to claim 1, wherein an electrically controllable cooling member is provided in contact with at least one of said heat conduction member and said reflector.

8. (Original) A backlight comprising a plurality of discharge tubes, a reflector covering said discharge tubes for reflecting light radiated from said discharge tubes, and blowing means for blowing air to a part of said discharge tubes between said discharge tubes.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A backlight comprising a discharge tube containing mercury in which almost all the liquid mercury except for an amount of gaseous

mercury at the time of discharge is collected at a first position apart from ~~an end~~ opposite ends of said discharge tube, and a cooling device for cooling said first position of said discharge tube.

11. (Original) A backlight according to claim 10, further comprising a reflector for reflecting a ray of light radiated from said discharge tube and a light guide plate receiving the ray of light radiated from said discharge tube and the ray of light reflected by said reflector.

12. (Original) A backlight according to claim 10, wherein said discharge tube has electrodes at opposite ends thereof, and said first position is located within a range spaced apart by $10D$ or by at least $0.25L$ from a tip of said electrode at each end of said discharge tube, where an inner diameter of said discharge tube is D and a distance between the electrodes at opposite ends of said discharge tube is L .

13. (Original) A backlight according to claim 12, wherein said first position possesses a limited portion in said range or a whole portion in said range.

14. (Original) A backlight according to claim 10, wherein said mercury comprises mercury particles having a size of not greater than 0.2 mm , or said mercury soaks into a fluorescent material applied to an inner wall of said discharge tube.

15. (Original) A backlight according to claim 10, wherein said discharge tube contains a rare gas, and said rare gas does not contain argon.

16. (Original) A backlight according to claim 15, wherein electrodes of said discharge tube comprise carbon nanotube.

17. (Currently Amended) A backlight according to claim 15, wherein said cooling device comprises a thermo-chromic material coming into contact with said discharge tube, or a transparent material containing a thermo-chromic ink or thermo-chromatic material.

18. (Original) A backlight according to claim 10, wherein said cooling device comprises a heat conduction member positioned to come into contact with said first position of said discharge tube, or positioned in the proximity of said first position of said discharge tube.

19. (Original) A backlight according to claim 10, wherein said cooling device comprises blowing means blowing air to said first position of said discharge tube.

20. (Original) A backlight according to claim 10, wherein said cooling device includes a cooling capacity varying mechanism.

21. (Original) A backlight according to claim 10, wherein said cooling device includes a movable heat conduction member.

22. (Original) A display device comprising a display unit and a backlight, said backlight comprising a discharge tube containing mercury in which almost all the liquid mercury except for an amount of gaseous mercury at the time of discharge is collected at a first position apart from each end of said discharge tube, and a cooling device for cooling said first position of said discharge tube.

23-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) A display device comprising:

a light source device having a discharge tube containing mercury in which liquid mercury is collected at a first position, and a cooling device capable of cooling said first position of said discharge tube and of varying a cooling capacity; and

a display element illuminated by said light source device.

29-52. (Cancelled)

53. (New) A backlight according to claim 1, wherein said heat conduction member is arranged between said discharge tube and said reflector.